

**National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)  
Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points  
Monday, December 16, 2019  
2:00–3:30 p.m. EDT**

**Roll Call**

***Tribal Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: William (Billy) Longfellow  
(Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- ☐ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White  
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☒ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☒ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Indians)
- ☐ Region 4 *Alternate*: Jerry Cain (Mississippi  
Band of Choctaw Indians)
- ☒ Region 5: Jeff Mears (Oneida Nation), Chair
- ☐ Region 6: Craig Kreman (Quapaw Tribe)
- ☐ Region 6 *Alternate*: Vacant
- ☒ Region 7: Page Hingst (Santee Sioux Nation of  
Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Misha Mazurkewycz (Ponca  
Tribe of Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 8: Joshua Tweeton (Spirit Lake Tribe)
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Allyson Two Bears  
(Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- ☒ Region 9: Carlotta (Carley) Whitecrane (Karuk  
Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: Vacant
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone-Bannock  
Tribes)
- ☒ Region 10 *Alternate*: Kelly Wright (Shoshone-  
Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 (Alaska): Alexis Wagner (Metlakatla  
Indian Community)

***EPA Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: Vacant
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☐ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ☒ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☐ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☒ Region 6: Alexandra (Alexa) Olson
- ☒ Region 7: Christopher (Chris) Taylor
- ☐ Region 7 *Alternate*: Amber Tilley
- ☐ Region 8: Alfred Basile
- ☒ Region 9: Rebecca Jamison
- ☒ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☒ AIEO: Francine St. Denis
- ☐ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ☐ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OCSPP: Karen Hamernik
- ☐ OCSPP *Alternate*: Amanda Hauff
- ☐ OLEM: David Charters
- ☒ OMS: Beth Jackson
- ☐ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: José Zambrana, Chair
- ☐ OW: Karen Gude

***Support Personnel***

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ☒ Kristen LeBaron, Support Contractor (SCG)

**Action Items**

1. TSC members will read the monthly teleconference minutes to ensure that they are aware of current TSC activities, news and action items.
2. TSC members who know individuals working on indigenous research protocols and methodologies will connect Neil Patterson with them.
3. TSC members will nominate topics and presenters for the 2020 TSC Science Seminar Series.

4. Carley Whitecrane will contact the individual who helped her tribe with its climate adaptation plan to determine whether she can speak at the January 2020 Science Seminar.
5. Joshua Tweeton will send the dates of the Region 8 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting to José Zambrana and Monica.

### **Key Discussion Points**

#### ***Roll Call and Distribution of Meeting Minutes***

- Monica Rodia took the roll and explained that the October monthly call notes had been finalized and distributed to the members.
- TSC members should read the minutes each month to ensure that they are aware of TSC activities, news and action items.

#### ***Report Out on TSC Fall Meeting in Narragansett, Rhode Island***

- The meeting highlighted the ongoing need to engage tribes to help to address their science concerns and priorities.
- José's presentation at the meeting provided a compilation of recent TSC activities, as well as ideas for a beneficial framework that will allow Tribal Representatives to provide their input to the fullest extent.

#### ***TSC Activities and Collaborations***

- The indigenous science symposium at the recent Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) North America Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, was successful, and the goal is to sponsor a similar symposium at the 2020 SETAC North America Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. Alexa Olsen serves as the point person for this effort, soliciting tribal participation—particularly from Region 6 tribes—at the symposium. TSC members should share similar opportunities with the group so that conversations focused on indigenous science can occur at multiple conferences and venues. SETAC is a global organization, and opportunities at meetings in Dublin, Ireland, and Singapore are being explored.
- The TSC should revisit the topic of indigenous research and science protocols, policies and methodologies, possibly collecting case studies and examples from regions and tribes. Indigenous research methodologies form a nexus with indigenous knowledge and knowledge protocols. Research priorities should be tribally self-determined and based on community goals. Neil asked TSC members who know individuals working on the frontier of indigenous research protocols and methodologies to connect him with these individuals. This topic can be discussed further by the Tribal Caucus, presented as a 2020 Science Seminar, and/or serve as the focus of a session at the TSC's Spring 2020 Meeting.
- The TSC will help to foster collaborations between tribes and Office of Research and Development (ORD) scientists similar to the air-quality field study carried out with the Hoopa Valley Tribe. Determining lessons learned from such collaborations also will be helpful.
- The TSC has been working with the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC) on tribal exposure scenarios. A workgroup under the EPA's E-Enterprise Leadership Council has been looking at approaches to screening emerging contaminants. The NTTC Chair and other tribal representatives attended a meeting on this topic in Washington, D.C., the previous week.

- The next step of the TSC and Tribal Waste and Response (TWAR) Steering Committee collaboration is for the two groups to meet and determine the specific focus of the collaboration. TWAR will be meeting at EPA Headquarters in February 2020 to develop its new priorities document. When a final draft of the priorities is completed, Page Hingst plans to share it with the TSC.
- The TSC may pursue a collaboration with the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Page is working with the NTTC Chair to present about PFAS at the NTWC's January 2020 teleconference.
- It is important that emails sent from EPA to tribal partners contain the most important information in a format that reaches them.

### ***2020 Science Seminar Schedule***

- The January Science Seminar will feature a climate adaptation tool; the presentation has been rescheduled from 2019. Carley may know of a potential additional presenter for this seminar.
- The Hopi Tribe and Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians may present in February.
- The presenters from the SETAC symposium devoted to indigenous science could be asked to present.
- Monica and the TSC Co-Chairs will be asking the TSC members to nominate topics and presenters for 2020 seminars.

### ***TSC 2020 Face-to-Face Meetings***

- The TSC Spring 2020 Meeting will be held in April or May and will be hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, North Carolina. Scheduling it close to Earth Day may provide interesting opportunities.
- The TSC Fall 2020 Meeting will be held in November 2020 at the EPA ORD Chapel Hill Research Facility in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Public health is a potential theme for the meeting.

### ***Announcements***

- The Office of Mission Support sent the Quality Assurance Project Plan Resource and Needs Survey to all states, territories and federally recognized tribes in October, with responses due by the end of November. The results from the 180 responses still are being analyzed, and the team is determining how the results will be summarized and disseminated.
- Region 10 received several comments on the withdrawal of the water quality criteria that EPA promulgated for the state of Washington. EPA staff are working on responding to these comments.
- The Region 8 RTOC Meeting will be held at Region 8 Headquarters in Denver, Colorado, in January. Joshua will send the dates of the meeting to José and Monica.
- The Tuscarora Nation has submitted a proposal to present at the National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program in Washington, D.C., which is being held April 22–25, 2020.

### ***Next TSC Teleconference***

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on Monday, January 27, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST.